

Impacts of Rail Grant Program Project 2011-11

Pre-proposal Questions and Responses

Questions (Q) and Responses (R):

2 September 2010

Q: I'd like to find out if the Rail Bureau is also issuing funds to railroads that have federal funds, meaning do the grants include federal-aid?

R: ***The project would apply to state funded grants***

Q: Are they looking for performance metrics on the delivery of rail granted projects or simply whether or not (and how) the grant money has been obligated & spent?

R: ***We are asking for performance metrics. We have some that we use in our application procedure, but we haven't followed up on them. Perhaps there are better metrics than those that we use.***

7 September 2010

Q: How many grants have been given out since 2003?

R: **Approximately 75 to 100. More information is on the NJDOT website under the State Rail Plan.**

Q: Do you expect a survey or an economic analysis?

R: **Primarily an economic analysis. The context of the project is that there have been grants made in the last ten years targeted to help short line, class three railroads make capital improvements.**

Q: Should the research only look at short lines?

R: **Yes.**

Q: Should the research have an emphasis on recipients or what was accomplished?

R: **Accomplishments. (See State Rail Plan).**

Q: How far back should the research go?

R: **There are paper files at NJDOT that go back to 2002. The research team is also expected to spend time interviewing the railroads.**

Q: How will the research be used?

R: **To move/rate grant applications through the acceptance/funding phase by helping with the evaluation process.**

Q: What is the current annual budget?

A: **About \$10,000,000.**